

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ATHENS 02280 241253Z

47

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
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O R 241200Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8003
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 2280

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP OCON PFOR ME
SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS
REF: JERUSALEM 658 (SECTO 484)

1. I WAS ABLE TO GET IN TOUCH WITH FORMIN BITSIOS SUNDAY MORNING AND GIVE HIM THE SECRETARY'S MESSAGE ON THE MIDDLE EAST IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS CONVEYED REFTEL. BITSIOS EXPRESSED APPRECIATION AND QUERIED ME AS TO THE DETAILS OF THE DIFFERENCES IN THE POSITIONS BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL. I MERELY WENT OVER THE RELEVANT SENTENCES IN THE MESSAGE AGAIN AND SAID THAT AS HE KNEW FROM HIS OWN EXPERIENCE WITH THE SECRETARY ON THE CYPRUS PROBLEM, THE SECRETARY DID NOT DISCLOSE DETAILS AND CONFIDENCES CONCERNING POSITIONS OF THE PARTIES IN A NEGOTIATION.

2. BITSIOS SAID TO THANK THE SECRETARY FOR HIS MESSAGE AND HE HAS SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD ME HE WILL BE MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS AT NOON TODAY TO BRIEF HIM ON THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION.

3. BITSIOS WILL NO DOUBT ALSO DISCUSS WITH CARAMANLIS HIS OWN FORTHCOMING VISITS TO ARAB COUNTRIES WHICH WERE CONFIDENTIAL

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ANNOUNCED AS OF SATURDAY MORNING. BITSIOS IS SCHEDULED

TO LEAVE FOR CAIRO NEXT MONDAY MARCH 31 FOR A THREE DAY
OFFICIAL VISIT. (HE TOLD ME PRIVATELY OVER THE WEEKEND
THAT HE MIGHT DELAY HIS DEPARTURE FROM CAIRO SLIGHTLY
IN ORDER TO ATTEND A WEDDING IN THE FAMILY OF FOREIGN MINISTER
FAHMI TO WHICH HE HAS BEEN INVITED.) FROM CAIRO BITSIOS IS
SCHEDULED TO GO TO BEIRUT FOR A SIMILAR OFFICIAL VISIT
TO LEBANON FOR SEVERAL DAYS. BITSIOS ALSO HAS INVITATIONS
TO VISIT SYRIA AND IRAN AND SAID HE WOULD BE SCHEDULING
VISITS TO THOSE AND PERHAPS ADDITIONAL ARAB COUNTRIES AS
WELL, PROBABLY LATER THIS SPRING.

KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

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